

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fluid detecting device  
~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an  
5 opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an  
inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to an upstream  
side of the main path, and (ii) causes part of a fluid flowing in  
the vicinity of the inner wall surface of the main path to run  
therethrough via the opening end portion; and

10 at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the  
fluid running through the branch paths;

wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch  
paths, which are pointed toward the upstream side of said main  
path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~  
15 ~~section of said main path~~ around an axis of said main path in a  
cross-section of said main path.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fluid detecting device  
~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to a downstream side of the main path, and (ii) causes fluid to flow therethrough via the opening end portion into the vicinity of the inner wall surface of the main path; and

at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the fluid running through the branch paths;

wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch paths, which are pointed toward the downstream side of said main path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~  
~~section of said main path~~ around the axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main path.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths, which comprise the whose opening end portions ~~are~~ pointed toward the upstream side of said main path at respective first ends thereof, ~~are connected~~ coupled  
~~to the other end portions~~ each other at second ends thereof to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in ~~a portion where said~~  
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~  
10 ~~said~~ one path ~~[[,]]~~ and detects a total flow rate of ~~the fluids~~  
~~fluid~~ running through the branch paths.

6. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according  
to claim 3, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths, ~~which comprise the whose~~  
opening end portions ~~are~~ pointed toward the downstream side of  
5 said main path ~~at respective first ends thereof,~~ are ~~connected~~  
~~coupled to the other end portions~~ each other at second ends  
thereof to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in ~~a portion where said~~  
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~  
10 ~~said~~ one path ~~[[,]]~~ and detects ~~the a~~ total flow rate of the  
~~fluids~~ fluid running through the branch paths.

7. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according  
to claim 5, wherein an end portion of ~~the portion where the~~  
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~  
~~said~~ one path ~~[[,]]~~ is open toward ~~the a~~ surrounding environment  
of said main path.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising [[:]] an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location that is disposed in a portion where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.

9. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 8, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid detecting device comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

~~one or a plurality of branch paths~~ at least one branch path,

5 each having of which: (i) comprises an inflow-side opening end portion pointed toward an upstream side of said main path and an outflow-side opening end portion pointed toward a downstream side of said main path which are formed in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path, and ~~causing~~ (ii) causes part of a  
10 fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of said main path to run therethrough via said inflow-side and outflow-side opening end portions; and

15        ~~a~~ at least one thermal flow sensor that ~~is disposed in said~~  
~~branch path and~~ detects a flow of the fluid running through said  
branch path.

11. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device  
according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device  
comprises a plurality of said branch paths, the inflow-side  
opening end portions ~~and the respective outflow-side opening end~~  
5     ~~portions in of~~ said plurality of branch paths are arranged at  
regular intervals ~~along a path cross section of said main path~~  
around an axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main  
path, and the outflow-side opening end portions of said plurality  
of branch paths are arranged at regular intervals around the axis  
10    of said main path in a cross-section of said main path.

12. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device  
according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device  
comprises a plurality of said branch paths, and the inflow-side  
opening end portions ~~and~~ of the plurality of branch paths are  
5     approximately aligned with the respective outflow-side opening  
end portions ~~in said plurality of branch paths are roughly~~  
~~aligned~~ in a path direction of said main path.

13. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 11, wherein:

5 said ~~plurality of~~ branch paths ~~have~~ comprises: (i) a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and (iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side branch paths, and which forms ~~to form~~ one path;  
10 and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion ~~that forms said one path,~~ and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

14. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 13, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

15. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location ~~that is disposed~~

~~in a portion~~ where said branch paths are not formed, and  
which detects a state of said fluid.

16. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 15, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

17. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are open at the other end sides~~ toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

18. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are open at the other end sides~~ toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

19. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 6, wherein an end portion of ~~the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form said~~ one path [[,]] is open toward ~~the~~ a surrounding environment of said main path.

20. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 12, wherein:

5 said ~~plurality of~~ branch paths ~~have~~ comprises: (i) a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and (iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side  
10 branch paths, and which forms ~~to form~~ one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion ~~that forms said one path,~~ and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

21. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 20, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

22. (New) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.